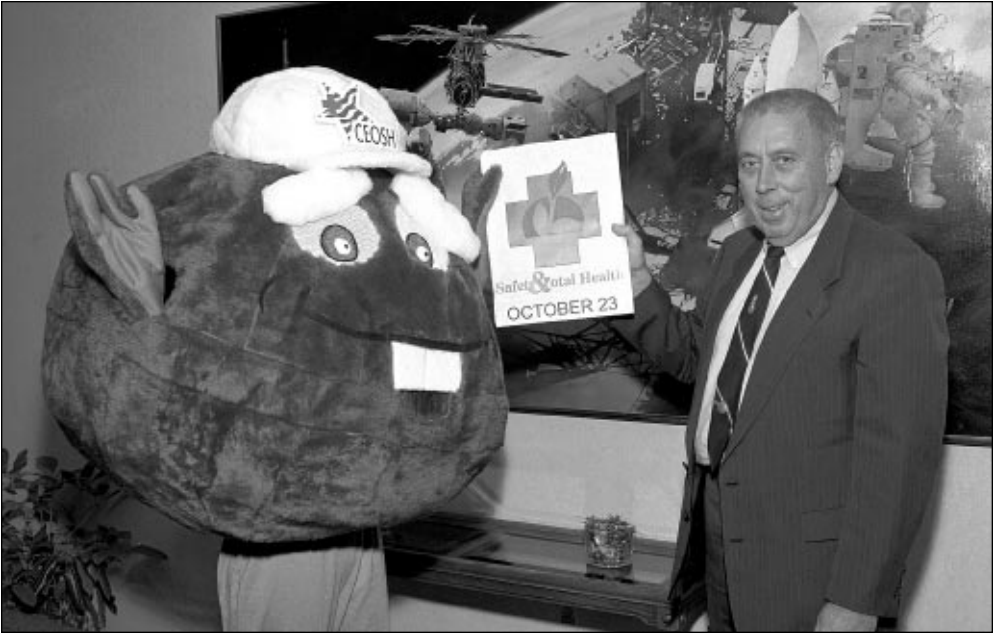


Safety is No Accident

June 1996

Education is a vital link
in the safety chain

A publication of NASA's Johnson Space Center for Employees' Safety and Health



JSC Photo by Mark Sowa

JSC Director George Abbey and Seemore Safety get together to promote Safety and Total Health Day set for Oct. 23. Look for Seemore around the center at special events and other safety-related functions. Look for Seemore to team up with Total Health Employee Wellness mascot, Nurse Vera, as they make the rounds giving out safety and health suggestions and “goodies” on Safety and Total Health Day. For a personal appearance by Seemore at a safety meeting or on-site event, call x45078.

New class helps identify asbestos hazards

Classes are now being offered by JSC’s Safety Learning Center for employees and supervisors who need to identify and control asbestos hazards as part of their jobs.

The Class III Asbestos Operations and Maintenance Competent Person classes are required by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration for employees performing Class III asbestos work. JSC contractors with personnel conducting such work must have at least one person trained as a “competent person” for the company. It is also appropriate to have several supervisors trained in this area as well.

The course teaches workers how to identify

asbestos hazards in the workplace and select appropriate control strategy for asbestos exposure, their responsibility for periodic inspections of the work site to ensure appropriate control measures are being followed and handling authority to correct and implement protective measures when discovered.

The course will cover the requirements for Class III competent person as well as the JSC Asbestos Control Program. Cost is \$95 per student.

The Safety Learning Center is currently taking enrollments on a first-come, first-served basis for this 16-hour course, scheduled for June 24-25 and July 1-2. To register, call x36369.

JSC expands safety education, awareness

By Rindy Carmichael

The center is undergoing a transformation in its attitude about safety with more emphasis being placed on awareness and training. “Safety has always been a primary concern of JSC in relation to mission operations,” said Tracy Fergusson of the Health, Safety and Environmental Compliance Office. “Now we see JSC focusing on employees as well — what their job is, what hazards they can encounter and how to protect themselves.”

One source of safety training on site is the JSC Safety Learning Center.

The SLC offers training to civil service and contractor personnel in accordance with JSC, NASA and OSHA policies and guidelines. The courses help employees obtain required training and certifications needed to maintain or, in some cases, exceed compliance with Occupational Safety and Health standards.

“The SLC provides a full range of training courses and programs that offer effective, proven methods of safety performance enhancement,” Fergusson said. “The programs are designed to meet JSC’s safety needs by addressing not only safety situations and regulations, but also safety concerns.”

The SLC offers Collateral Duty courses for personnel designated by their organizations as Fire Wardens, Facility Managers and Safety Representatives. Periodically, detailed Hazwopper courses are scheduled for civil service and contractor personnel designated to provide incident commander or first responders

operations procedures. Other courses include confined space entry and lockout/tagout and safety awareness courses such as Managers’ Safety, Senior Managers’ Safety and Fundamentals of Occupational Safety. American Red Cross courses, including Community First Aid and Safety, Protect Your Back and Community CPR, are offered monthly. Safety films to allow unescorted access to various buildings and operations at JSC are available for viewing.

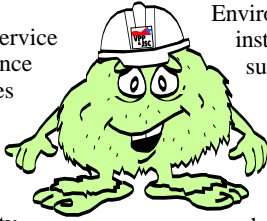
Additionally, the NASA Safety Training Center provides specialized safety, health and risk management courses at JSC as well as other NASA centers. “We anticipate increased collaboration with the NSTC, Industrial Hygiene and

Environmental support and our own adjunct instructors in developing programs that support a common training mission,” said

Andrew Hernandez, project lead for the NSTC/SLC. “This mission is simply to provide JSC civil service and contractor employees with the training needed to maintain a safe and healthful working environment that is in

compliance with all applicable standards, and which allows for JSC’s continuing vital role in the space program.” Several NSTC courses are scheduled throughout the year at the learning center.

Individualized training also is available through the SLC video library with programs ranging from compliance with OSHA standards to home safety. The video library includes audio-cassettes on communication, management roles and motivational techniques for training and awareness. The Safety Learning Center is open weekdays from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and is located on Avenue B between Fifth and Sixth Streets. For more information on specific courses or course registration, call x36369.



Confined space hazards can be reduced with proper training

By Mary Peterson

In 1987 Americans everywhere were preoccupied with the fate of a toddler named Jessica, trapped in an abandoned well in west Texas with frighteningly slim odds of being rescued.

The country breathed a collective sigh of relief when at last, under extremely difficult conditions, rescuers were able to retrieve her relatively unharmed. An isolated incident? Not as much as one might think.

Hazards of confined spaces exist in

numerous places, not the least of which occur at the workplace.

In the recent past, an incident occurred at JSC when several telecommunications employees were spotted by Sean Keppta of the Health, Safety and Environmental Compliance Office as they were about to enter an electrical manhole on site. “The space, approximately 10 to 12 feet deep normally a dry manhole, had standing water on this occasion,” according to Keppta.

“This posed the added threat of depleted oxygen, and without proper ventilation and monitoring equipment,

a tragedy could have resulted had I not just been passing by,” he said.

“To protect workers,” Keppta said, “all confined spaces at JSC are classified as ‘JSC permit’ or ‘OSHA permit,’ depending on the potential hazard presented by either the space itself or the work to be done.”

What is to be feared in a confined space? Claustrophobic discomfort aside, there is potential for oxygen deficiency, electrical shock or fire, mechanical hazards, and toxic atmospheres, to name a few. Other risks could be present, depending on the structure and the activity itself.

At JSC, confined spaces safety training is provided monthly at the Safety Training Center and is a requirement, along with proper certification, for working in such areas.

Confined space rescue activities were staged recently at the White Sands Test Facility. “Although a mock disaster, the exercise gave rise to some very dramatic and unsettling truths about the ‘what ifs’ of such a situation,” said Jim Williams, personal protection equipment officer at WSTF.

“No one ever wants to hear or speak, ‘Help! Help! My partner is trapped.’ and, worse, not know what to do about

it. Not surprisingly, confined space accidents often turn into multiple fatalities when an untrained coworker attempts to rescue an injured victim,” Williams said.

After 12 hours of classroom instruction, White Sands became its own choreographed nightmare, complete with a rash of people falling into holes, people trapped by cave-ins and people injured and unable to escape from any number of confined spaces. The actor-victims were removed via the safest, easiest, and most expedient method—sometimes up, sometimes down, or even horizontally.

‘Convincer’ convinces workers

By Rindy Carmichael

Being involved in a car crash is not a situation most people would volunteer for, but JSC employees and contractors recently found themselves doing just that.

On May 29, the Pasadena Police Department demonstrated its “Convincer,” a device that simulates a crash at seven miles per hour. After being strapped into a lap and shoulder belt, volunteers experienced a jolt that would “convince” them seatbelts were an absolute necessity even in a low-speed motor accident.

“I volunteered to ride the ‘Convincer’ to see what the impact would be like,” said Steve Nagel of the Safety, Reliability, and Quality Assurance Office. “I felt that it couldn’t be that bad at such a low speed. When the seat abruptly stopped at the end of its short travel, the resulting force was tremendous, much greater than I had expected. The impact of my body against the straps felt very hard and, according to a spectator, my head whipped forward then back dramatically—to me

the feeling was ‘brain-jarring.’

“As a result of the ride, my neck and back were pretty sore for the next two days,” Nagel continued. “I don’t even want to think about how it would feel at a greater speed or with more slack in the belts. I always wear my seatbelt, but in case some of you have doubts about the value of strapping in, take a tip from me and do it.”

Others who were already convinced to wear their seatbelts rode the device for the non-dangerous “thrill of it.”

Reinforcing the Pasadena Police Department’s plea for safety belt use, 1995 Safety Awareness Day speaker, Trooper Steve Hargett, explained the perils of driving beltless.

“A 170-pound man sitting in the back seat of a car involved in a 35 mph automobile crash will equate to 2,000 pounds of force,” Hargett said. “Front seat passengers not wearing a seat belt could be pushed through the windshield from that force. Those in both the front and back seats must be buckled in.”

A videotape of Trooper Hargett’s talk is available for viewing in the Safety Learning Center, x36369.



Photo by Rindy Carmichael

Steve Nagel of the Safety, Reliability and Quality Assurance Office gets strapped into the “Convincer” by Pasadena Police Department Officers Larry Rubin, left, and Raul Ibarra, right. The Convincer simulates a car crash at seven mph. When the seat abruptly stops, the resulting force is tremendous. Nagel was surprised by the “brain-jarring” jolt and advised everyone buckle up.

What would you do?

A friend or coworker loses consciousness?

Check for any life-threatening symptoms, including (1) the patient is having difficulty or is not breathing, (2) weak or no pulse, (3) severe bleeding, or (4) any other obvious signs of impairment. For on-site assistance, call x33333.

A coworker needs to be resuscitated?

When a person is not breathing or does not have a pulse, action should be taken immediately. Consider these minutes.

0 minutes	When breathing stops, the heart stops.
4-6 minutes	Without oxygen, brain damage is possible.
6-10 minutes	Brain damage is likely.
over 10 minutes	Irreversible brain damage occurs.

CPR classes are held regularly at the Safety Learning Center in Bldg. 226. For more information, contact Margie Williams, x36369.